

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

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1. A method in a data processing system for examining a three dimensional image, the method comprising:

presenting an object, wherein the object includes a set of views for different angles of view for the object;

10 and

responsive to a user input to traverse a view from the set of views, transcoding a depth map for the view into a non-visual output.

15 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
retrieving the depth map from a server.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
generating the depth map from the view.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of views is described using an equation and further comprising:
generating the depth map using the equation.

25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-visual output is an audio output.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-visual output is a tactile output.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the transcoding step comprises:
transcoding a set of adjacent lines within the depth

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map.

8. A method in a data processing system for presenting a three dimensional object, the method comprising:
- 5 presenting options to present different views of the three dimensional object; and
- responsive to user inputs, transcoding depth maps for the different views of the three dimensional object into non-visual outputs to present the different views of
- 10 the three dimensional object.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the depth maps are received from a server.
- 15 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the depth maps are generated at the data processing system using a set of images for the three dimensional object.
11. The method of claim 8, wherein the depth maps are
- 20 generated from an equation describing the three dimensional object.
12. The method of claim 8, wherein the non-visual output is an audio output.
- 25 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the non-visual output is a tactile output.
14. A data processing system comprising:
- 30 a bus system;
- a communications unit connected to the bus system;
- a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

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a processing unit connected to the bus system,
 wherein the processing unit executes the set of
 instructions to present an object, wherein the object
 includes a set of views for different angles of view for
 5 the object; and transcode a depth map for the view into a
 non-visual output in response to a user input to traverse
 a view from the set of views.

15. A data processing system comprising:
 10 a bus system;
 a communications unit connected to the bus system;
 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
 memory includes as set of instructions; and
 a processing unit connected to the bus system,
 15 wherein the processing unit executes the set of
 instructions to present options to present different
 views of the three dimensional object; and transcode
 depth maps for the different views of the three
 dimensional object into non-visual outputs to present the
 20 different views of the three dimensional object in
 response to user inputs.

16. A data processing system for examining a three
 dimensional image, the data processing system comprising:
 25 presenting means for presenting an object, wherein
 the object includes a set of views for different angles
 of view for the object; and
 transcoding means, responsive to a user input to
 traverse a view from the set of views, for transcoding a
 30 depth map for the view into a non-visual output.

17. The data processing system of claim 16 further
 comprising:

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retrieving means for retrieving the depth map from a server.

18. The data processing system of claim 16 further
5 comprising:

generating means for generating the depth map from the view.

19. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the
10 set of views is described using an equation and further comprising:

generating the depth map using the equation.

20. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the
15 non-visual output is an audio output.

21. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the non-visual output is a tactile output.

20 22. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the transcoding means comprises:

means for transcoding a set of adjacent lines within the depth map.

25 23. A data processing system for presenting a three dimensional object, the data processing system comprising:

presenting means for presenting options to present different views of the three dimensional object; and

30 transcoding means, responsive to user inputs, for transcoding depth maps for the different views of the three dimensional object into non-visual outputs to present the different views of the three dimensional

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object.

24. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the depth maps are received from a server.

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25. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the depth maps are generated at the data processing system using a set of images for the three dimensional object.

10 26. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the depth maps are generated from an equation describing the three dimensional object.

15 27. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the non-visual output is an audio output.

28. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the non-visual output is a tactile output.

20 29. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for examining a three dimensional image, the computer program product comprising:

25 first instructions for presenting an object, wherein the object includes a set of views for different angles of view for the object; and

second instructions, responsive to a user input to traverse a view from the set of views, for transcoding a depth map for the view into a non-visual output.

30 30. The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising:

third instructions for retrieving the depth map from a server.

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31. The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising:

5 third instructions for generating the depth map from the view.

32. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the set of views is described using an equation and further comprising:

10 third instructions for generating the depth map using the equation.

33. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the non-visual output is an audio output.

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34. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the non-visual output is a tactile output.

35. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the second instructions comprises:

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sub-instructions for transcoding a set of adjacent lines within the depth map.

36. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for presenting a three dimensional object, the computer program product comprising:

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first instructions for presenting options to present different views of the three dimensional object; and

30 second instructions, responsive to user inputs, for transcoding depth maps for the different views of the three dimensional object into non-visual outputs to present the different views of the three dimensional object.

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37. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the depth maps are received from a server.

5 38. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the depth maps are generated at the data processing system using a set of images for the three dimensional object.

10 39. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the depth maps are generated from an equation describing the three dimensional object.

15 40. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the non-visual output is an audio output.

41. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the non-visual output is a tactile output.

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